



## 2003 NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK HUNT ARCHERY AND GENERAL SEASONS

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<b>AREA</b>	<p>Congratulations on being drawn for the Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk Hunt! The hunt area is highly variable, ranging from heavily forested, steep, and rugged terrain to high desert juniper-sage communities. Elk do not occur throughout the entire area so gathering information in advance of your hunt will be useful. We have prepared the following information to help you have a successful hunting experience.</p>
<b>REGULATIONS</b>	<p>All hunters should read and be familiar with regulations contained in the 2003 Hunting Regulations booklet for Mammals and Furbearers. Section 364 describes the Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk hunt area and hunting season. Most elk within the hunt area occur on public lands, however, occasionally animals are found on private property. Remember you must obtain written permission to hunt on private property.</p>
<b>PUBLIC LAND</b>	<p>This zone contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS); Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 2400 Washington Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 244-2978, the Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-6131, the Modoc National Forest, 441 North Main Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-4666, and the Lassen National Forest, 55 S. Sacramento Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-2151 and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 355 Hemsted Road, Redding, CA 96002, (530) 224-2100 and 708 West Twelfth Street, Alturas, CA 96058, (530) 398-4391.</p>
<b>ACCESS</b>	<p>Although there is private land within the zone, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. However, please be aware that some National Forest roads may be closed to vehicle access during the hunting season to protect natural resources or because they are impassible. Generally, these areas are open to hunting provided access is made by non-motorized vehicle. From August 15th through March 31st there are Road Closure Management restrictions on certain USFS roads administered by the Goosenest Ranger District, 37805 Highway 97, Macdoel, CA 96058, (530) 398-4391.</p>
<b>MAPS</b>	<p>The most comprehensive maps of the hunt area are the Shasta-Trinity, Modoc, and Klamath National Forest maps. National Forest maps are \$6.00 each and provide general information regarding the location of public lands and roads. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices, by calling (530) 647-5390 or on-line at <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nationalforeststore/">www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nationalforeststore/</a>. District transportation maps are sometimes available for \$2.00 each. These maps depict many roads not identified on general National Forest maps. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features not displayed on USFS maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact USGS directly at (650) 853-8300. You can also order USGS maps online at <a href="http://www.usgs.gov">www.usgs.gov</a>. BLM maps are available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400.</p>

## **WEATHER**

Weather in this region is highly variable. It may be quite warm but early storms are common. Snow during your hunting season would be unusual but heavy rains can occur making some roads impassable. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

## **CAMPING**

There are numerous designated campgrounds within the zone. Facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands however, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

## **ELK HUNTING**

Hunters drawn for the first Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk Hunt in 2002 were mailed a questionnaire to gain insight into their hunting experience and to collect information regarding the distribution of elk within the hunt area.

Hunter success for the archery hunt was 20%, and for the general season was 90%. All fifteen respondents reported seeing elk while hunting, and almost all heard elk bugle while hunting. All of the hunters attempted to bugle or cow call and 13 of the 15 reported having elk respond to their calls.

Hunters were asked to rate their hunting experience from “1” to “5”, with a rating of “1” being excellent and “5” being poor. Fourteen of the hunters rated the hunt favorably, and one responded with a neutral “3”.

## **CARE OF MEAT**

Temperatures during the elk hunting season can be quite warm. The weather and rugged terrain within the hunt area make it critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. You should be prepared to skin and quarter or bone your elk immediately after it is tagged. The meat should be hung in fly-proof breathable sacks in the shade until you pack it out. If you are hunting by yourself, you will need at minimum, four game sacks, plenty of rope, a game hoist, a knife, a knife sharpener, and a pack frame. A meat saw or hatchet and a tarp would also likely be helpful.

## **DEER SEASON OVERLAP**

Please be aware that the first five days of the Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk ARCHERY season overlap with deer archery season in the X zones. Most of the GENERAL elk season overlaps with the C2 general deer season. Therefore, on those dates you may encounter deer hunters in the field, within the mentioned zones.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have any questions regarding this hunt, please contact Ms. Melissa Griffiths at (530) 459-1129 or Mr. Bob Schaefer at (530) 459-5977. Again, congratulations and we hope you have an enjoyable hunt.